

## SEPTEMBER TEAL SEASON FACT SHEET - JUNE 2004

- September teal seasons and/or bonus teal bags were initiated in late 1960's to provide harvest opportunities predominantly on blue-winged teal - a lightly harvested species that is generally unavailable during the regular duck season.
- Blue-winged teal are one of the earliest of the migratory waterfowl. Most pass through Virginia from late August through September, prior to the opening of the regular duck season.
- Green-winged teal are later migrants that arrive in September and October. Some Green-wings may remain in the state throughout the winter depending on weather conditions.
- Virginia offered a bonus teal bag during portions of the 1970 - 1972 duck hunting seasons, and again during the 1984 - 1987 duck hunting seasons.
- Special teal seasons and bonus bag options were discontinued by the USFWS in 1988 due to a drought on the prairies and a decline in blue-winged teal numbers.
- As habitat conditions improved in the 1990's, so did teal populations. Special September teal seasons were reinstated on an experimental basis in the Atlantic Flyway in 1998. As long as teal populations are above 4.7 million (on the May survey), special teal seasons will be allowed.
- Virginia has held a special 9-day teal season in the eastern portion of the state (east of I-95) for the past six years - see dates listed below.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Season Dates</u>	<u>Green-wing</u>		<u>Blue-wing</u>		<u>Total Harvest</u>
1998	Sept. 10-19	1,291	(68%)	596	(32%)	1,887*
1999	Sept. 16-25	2,687	(75%)	896	(25%)	3,583*
2000	Sept. 14-23	1,400	(42%)	1,960	(58%)	3,360*
2001	Sept. 15-25	211	(40%)	316	(60%)	527**
2002	Sept. 14-24	107	(33%)	214	(67%)	321**
2003	Sept. 13-23	USFWS harvest figures not yet available				

\* Based on the US Fish & Wildlife Service Duck Stamp Survey in years 1998-2000

\*\* Based on The Harvest Information Program (HIP) in years 2001-2002